

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 188320
ORIGIN EB-08

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY WARSAW
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USMISSION GENEVA

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TOKYO FOR US TEXTILE DEL, GENEVA FOR PHELAN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EPAP, PL

SUBJECT: US/POLISH BILATERAL TEXTILE AGREEMENT

1. SEVERAL WEEKS AGO, WE ALERTED JERZY STREBSKI (COMMERCIAL ATTACHE) AT THE POLISH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON THAT CERTAIN CATEGORIES WERE FILLING RAPIDLY THIS YEAR. AS A RESULT, STREBSKI AND JAN WINSNIEWSKI (FOREIGN TRADE OFFICE OF KNITTING INDUSTRY BOARD) CAME IN THIS MORNING TO SEE WHETHER WE NEEDED FORMAL CONSULTATIONS TO RESOLVE ANY PROBLEMS UNDER OUR TEXTILE AGREEMENT. WE ASSURED HIM THAT WE COULD PROBABLY WORK OUR OUR PROBLEMS WITHOUT FORMAL CONSULTATIONS.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 188320

2. WE POINTED OUT THAT ACCORDING TO OUR DATA POLAND HAD OVERSHIPPED THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES IN 1977:

CATEGORY 36 - 9,442 PIECES; MERGED CATEGORY 42, 43/46PT. - 21,505 DOZEN; AND CATEGORY 63 - 211,391 POUNDS. IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDARD PROCEDURES WE ARE CHARGING THOSE

OVERSHIPMENTS TO THE 1978 LEVELS.

3. PARTLY AS A RESULT OF THE OVERSHIPMENT CHARGE, OUR LATEST DATA INDICATES THAT CATEGORY 359 (OTHER APPAREL) IS

121.4 PERCENT FILLED. IN ORDER TO AVOID A POSSIBLE EMBARGO ON THAT CATEGORY, WE WOULD SUGGEST THAT THE POLISH GOVERNMENT CONSIDER REQUESTING AN INCREASE. AT THE SAME TIME, APPARENTLY BECAUSE OF POLISH ERRORS IN CLASSIFICATION, CATEGORY 334 (OTHER COATS MEN'S AND BOYS) IS 153.9 PERCENT FILLED. A REQUEST TO INCREASE THAT LEVEL BY A REASONABLE AMOUNT COULD ALSO TAKE CARE OF THE PROBLEM TEMPORARILY, ALLOWING US SUFFICIENT TIME TO STRAIGHTEN OUT CLASSIFICATION PROBLEMS.

4. WE GAVE STREBSKI AND WINSNIEWSKI A LIST OF CATEGORY 334 IMPORTS FROM POLAND BY MONTH OF EXPORT. WE THINK IT WILL BE HELPFUL IN RESOLVING DISCREPANCIES BETWEEN OUR STATISTICS IF POLAND WOULD GIVE US SIMILAR LISTS FOR CATEGORIES 334, 338 AND 359. WE WILL AT THE SAME TIME FORWARD SUCH LISTS FOR 338 AND 359 TO STREBSKI. STREBSKI AND WISNIEWSKI HAVE ALSO AGREED TO SUBMIT TO US ASAP SAMPLES FOR EACH OF THESE CATEGORIES INDICATING PRESENT POLISH PRACTICE OF CLASSIFICATION.

5. WE SUGGESTED TO STREBSKI AND WISNIEWSKI THAT A MORE UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 188320

LONG RUN SOLUTION TO CLASSIFICATION AND STATISTICAL PROBLEMS MIGHT BE FOUND BY ESTABLISHING A VISA AGREEMENT IN WHICH ONLY SHIPMENTS VISAED WITH THE CORRECT CATEGORY NUMBER COULD ENTER THE US. IMPORTERS WITH SHIPMENTS DENIED ENTRY FOR INCORRECT VISA CATEGORIZATION WOULD CONTACT THE POLISH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON FOR ASSISTANCE. THE EMBASSY WOULD NOTIFY POLISH EXPORT AUTHORITIES IN WARSAW TO ADJUST THEIR EXPORT STATISTICS AND WOULD REQUEST THE USG TO ENTER THE SHIPMENT DESPITE THE LACK OF PROPER VISA. THE SHIPMENT WOULD THEN BE ENTERED WITHOUT ANY UNDUE INCONVENIENCE TO THE IMPORTER. THIS IS THE ONLY WAY THE POLISH GOVERNMENT CAN BE ALERTED TO MISCLASSIFICATION OF SPECIFIC SHIPMENTS. STREBSKI AGREED THAT SUCH A PROCEDURE WOULD BE DESIRABLE AND THAT HE WOULD RECOMMEND THAT HIS GOVERNMENT AGREE TO IT. WE WILL PROPOSE THE NECESSARY LANGUAGE.

6. STREBSKI AND WISNIEWSKI SEEMED PLEASED WITH OUR EXCHANGE OF VIEWS THIS MORNING AND HOPEFUL THAT WE WOULD GET THROUGH THE PRESENT AGREEMENT YEAR WITHOUT ANY GREAT PROBLEMS. WE ASSURED THEM THAT WE THOUGHT WE WERE ON THE TRACK TO WORKING OUT OUR PROBLEMS. VANCE

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